

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application, claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 356165104A. This rejection is hereby traversed for at least the following reasons.

The present invention as set forth in claim 1 recites a hermetically sealed, optical fiber assembly. The assembly includes a plurality of optical fibers and a ferrule. The ferrule has a first aperture extending through a first end of the ferrule and a plurality of second apertures extending through a second end of ferrule opposing the first end of the ferrule such that a continuous passage is formed between the first aperture and each of the second apertures. The first aperture, which has a diameter greater than a diameter of the second apertures, is sufficiently large in size to receive the plurality of optical fibers therein. Each of the optical fibers traverses the first aperture and a respective one of the second apertures. An adhesive material secures each of the optical fibers to the first aperture and to the respective one of the second apertures. A solder material bonds each of the optical fibers to an entrance to the respective one of the second apertures.

Japanese Patent No. 356165104A (the “‘104A patent”) in figure 5 shows a ferrule 19 having fibers 24 that collectively traverse aperture 29 and, after traversing a cavity, individually traverse respective apertures 31. An adhesive 27 is used to secure the fibers 24 within the cavity. However, the ‘104A patent fails to show, in addition to the adhesive that is shown, the claimed *solder material bonding each of the optical fibers to an entrance to said respective one of the second apertures*. Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that the ‘104A reference does not anticipate claim 1 of the present application. Moreover, it is not surprising that the ‘104A reference fails to show this claimed feature of the invention since the reference does not state or suggest that the resulting seal that is formed is a hermetic seal. As discussed in paragraph 18 of the present application, the present invention applies the solder to ensure that a hermetic seal is established. Accordingly, there is nothing in the ‘104A reference that suggests the application of such a solder.

Since the ‘104A reference, alone or in combination with the remaining cited references, show or suggest this claimed feature of the invention, it is respectfully

requested that for at least this reason the rejection of independent claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

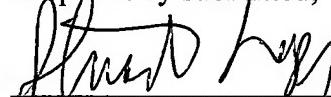
**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

**Fees**

If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

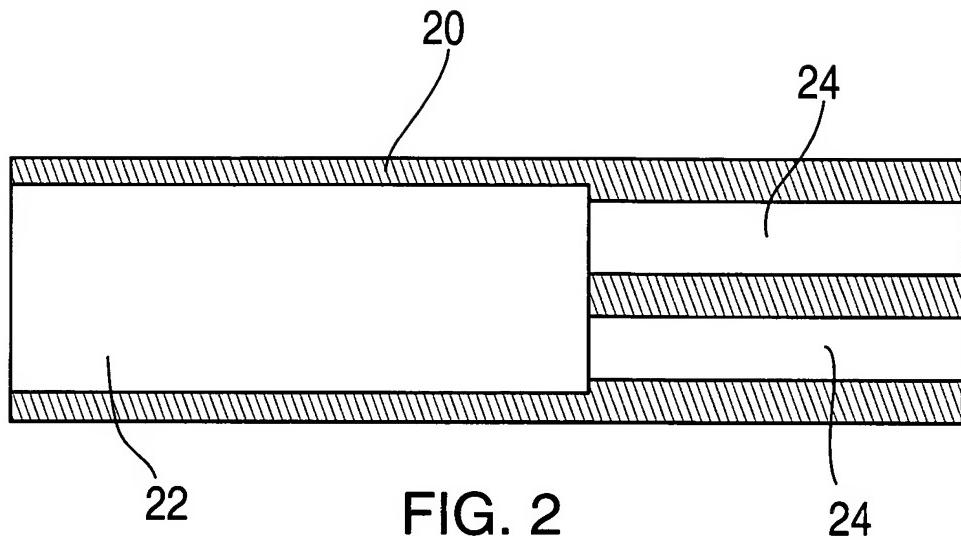
Respectfully submitted,



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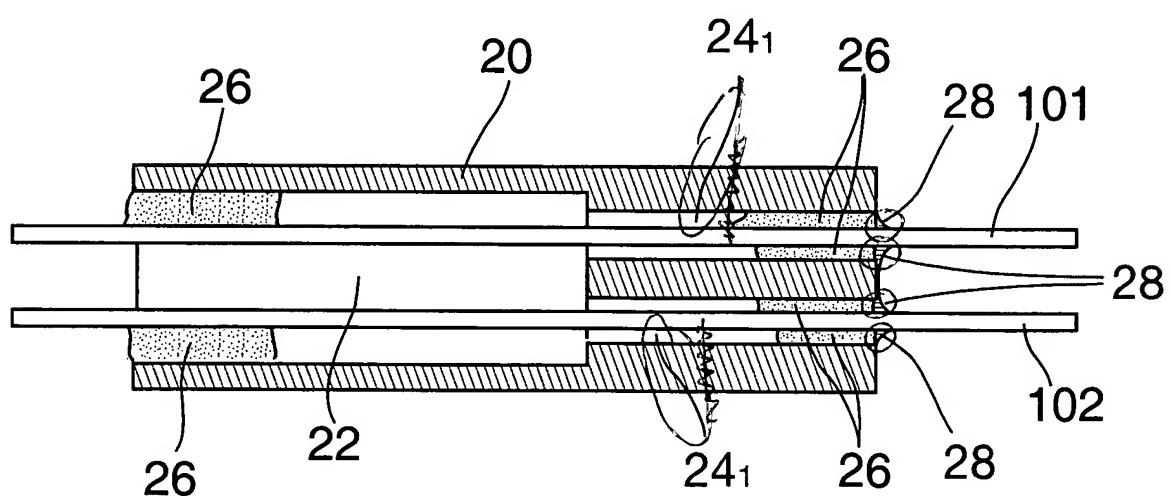


FIG. 3